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Long et al.

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[54] **LANTERN HAVING A PROTECTIVE SHIELD FEATURE**

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[52] **U.S. Cl.** **431/142**; 431/344; 431/345; 362/159; 362/186; 362/399

[58] **Field of Search** 431/344, 345, 431/142, 350; 362/159, 160, 186, 376, 399

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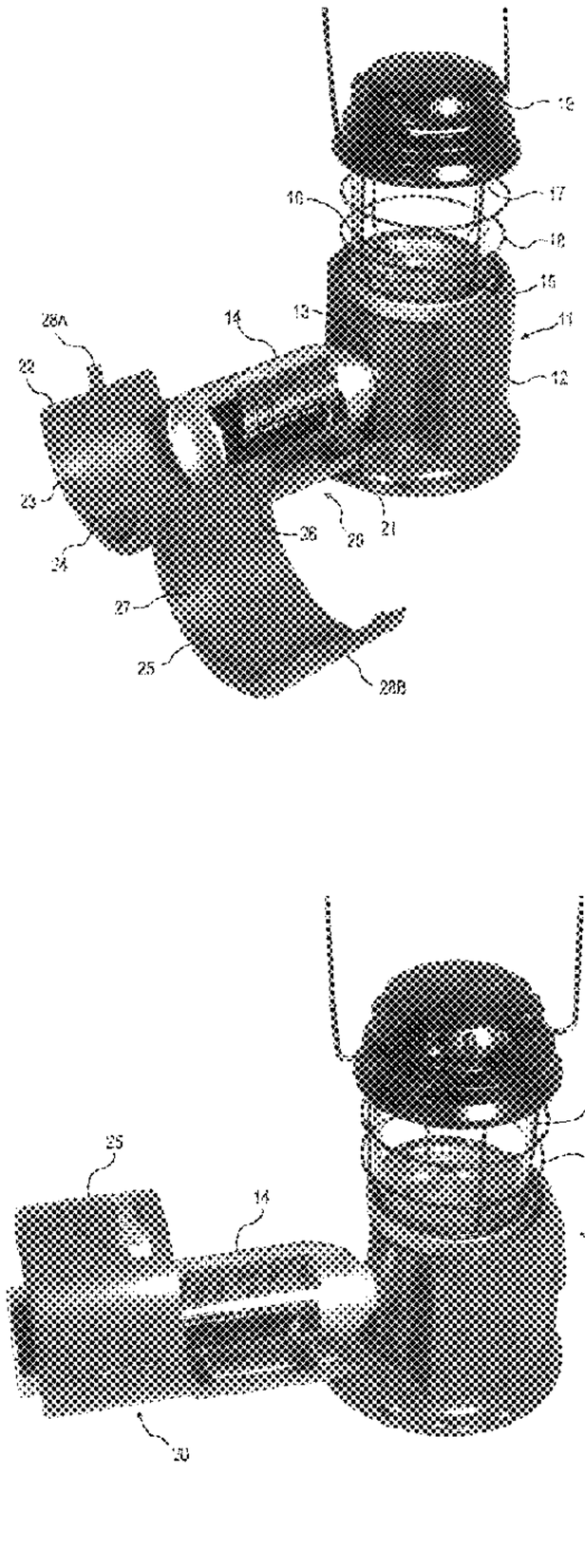
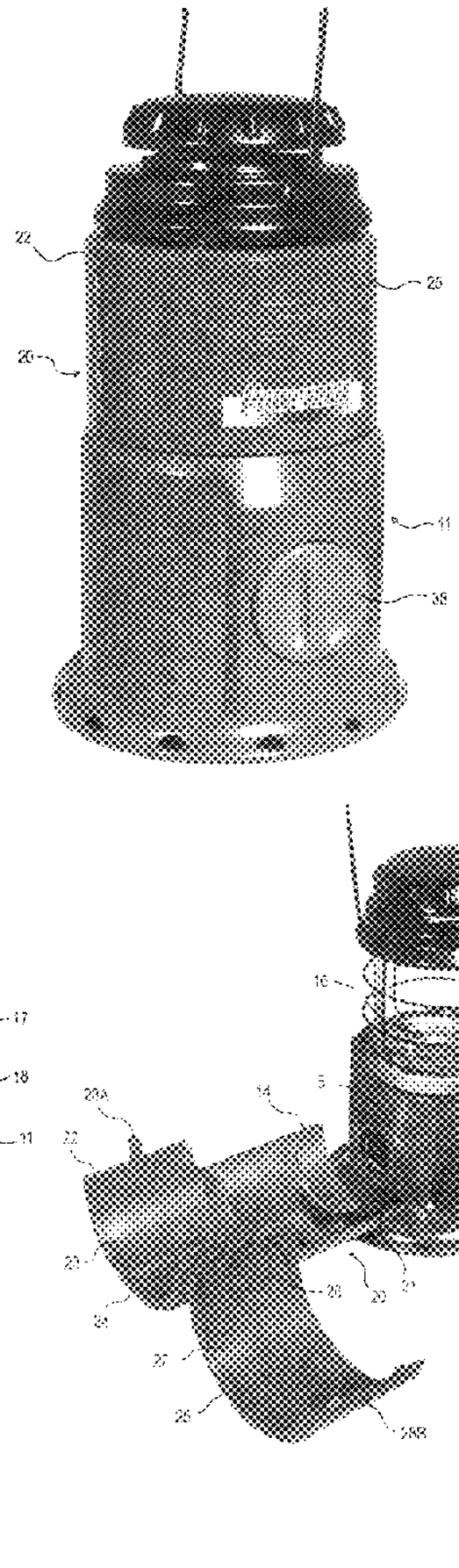
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A lantern includes a housing, a fuel inlet, and a flame guard surrounding the region in which the fuel is burned. A shield is hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between a closed position in which the shield protects the flame guard and blocks access to the fuel inlet, and an open position. The shield may be made of two parts, and a crenulated bail may be used to hang the lantern.

41 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets





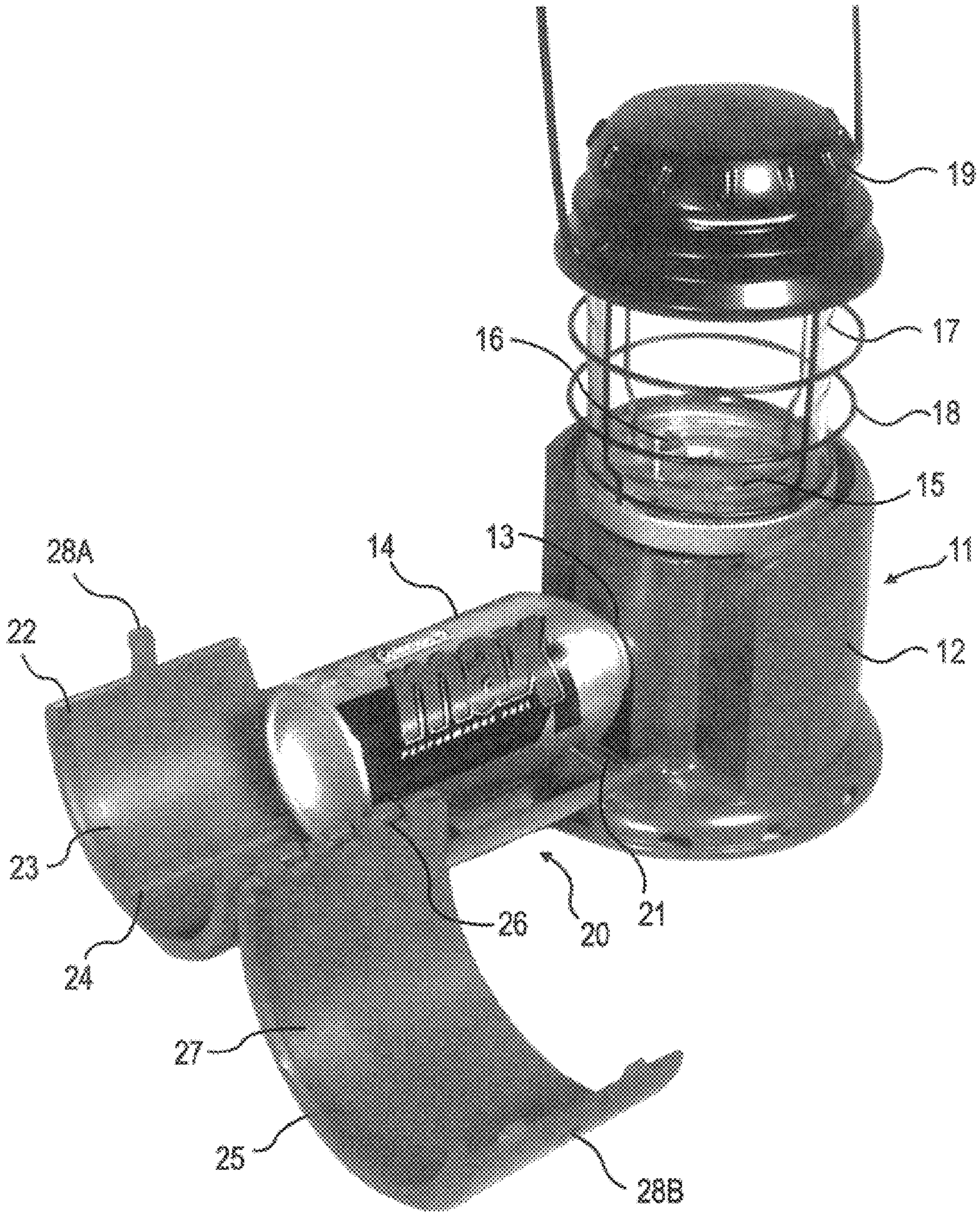


FIG. 1A

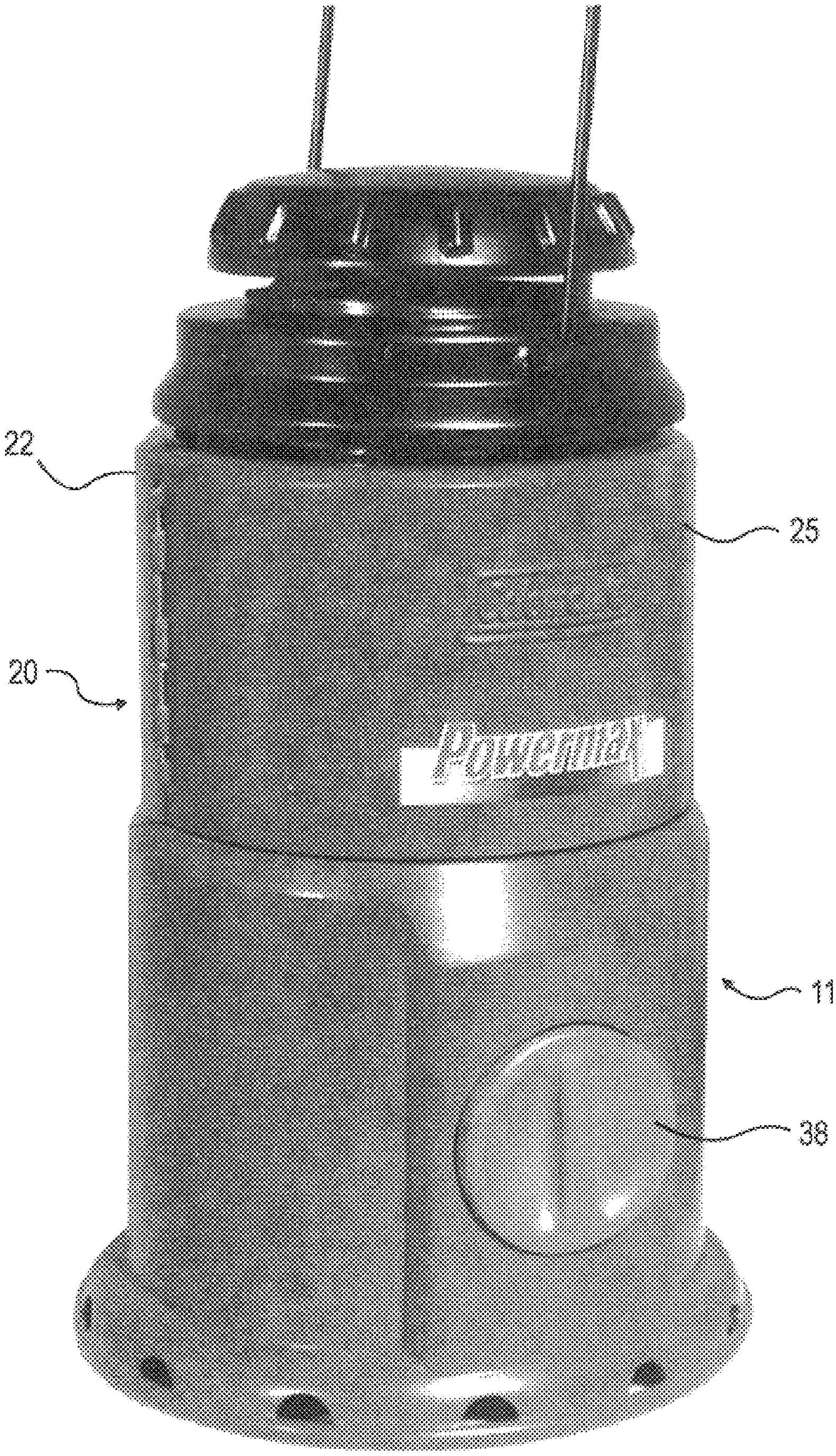


FIG. 1B

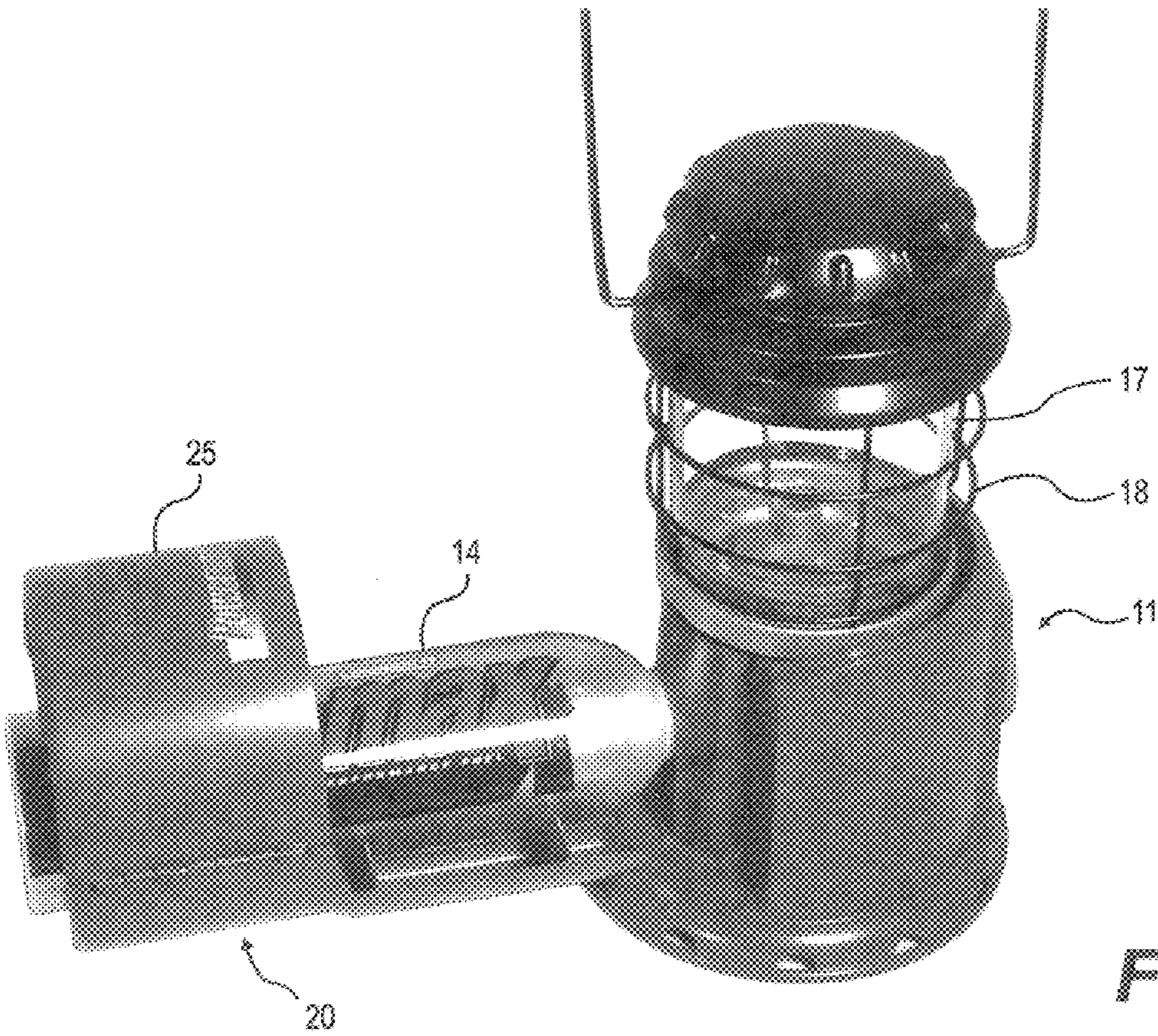
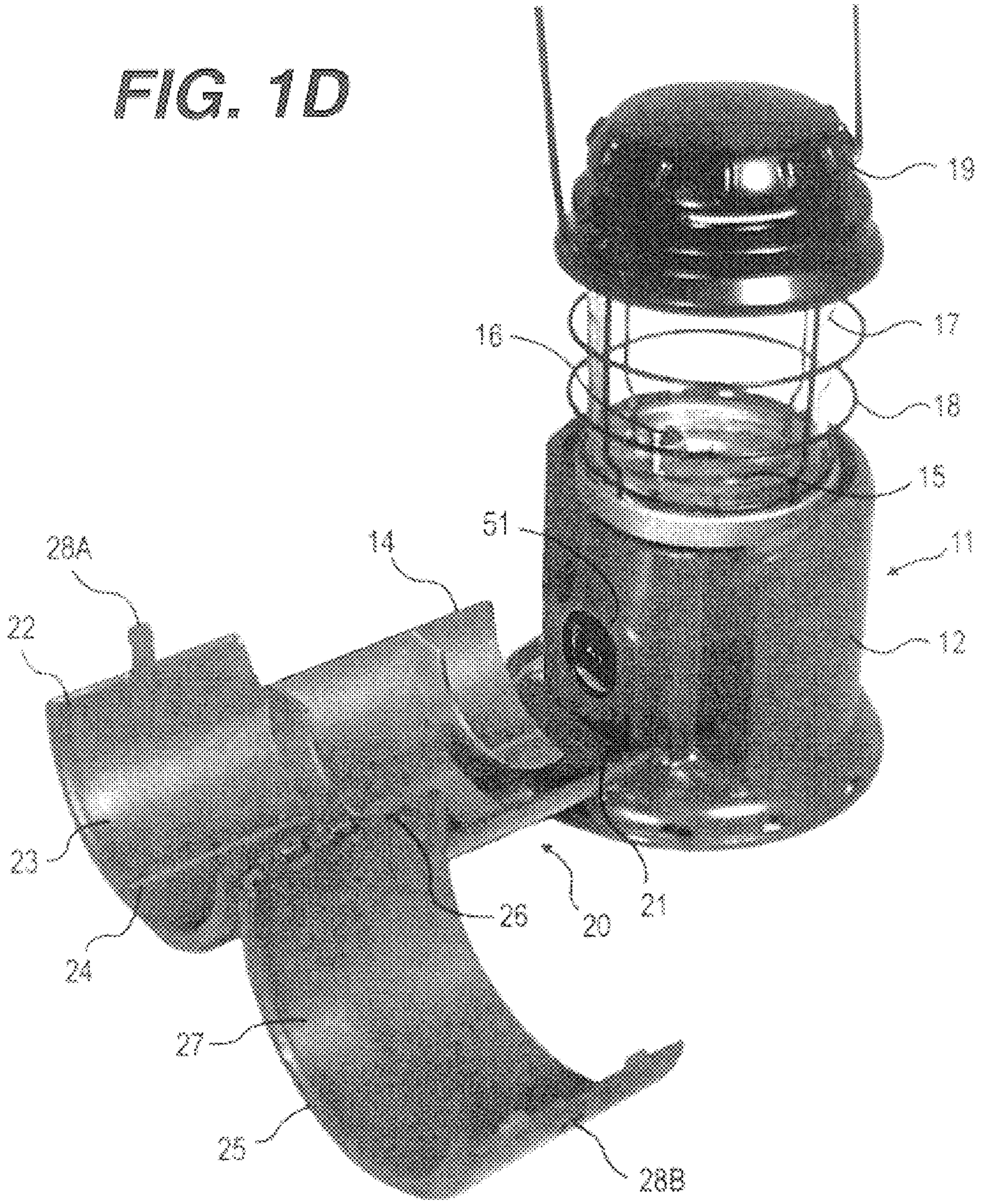


FIG. 1C

FIG. 1D



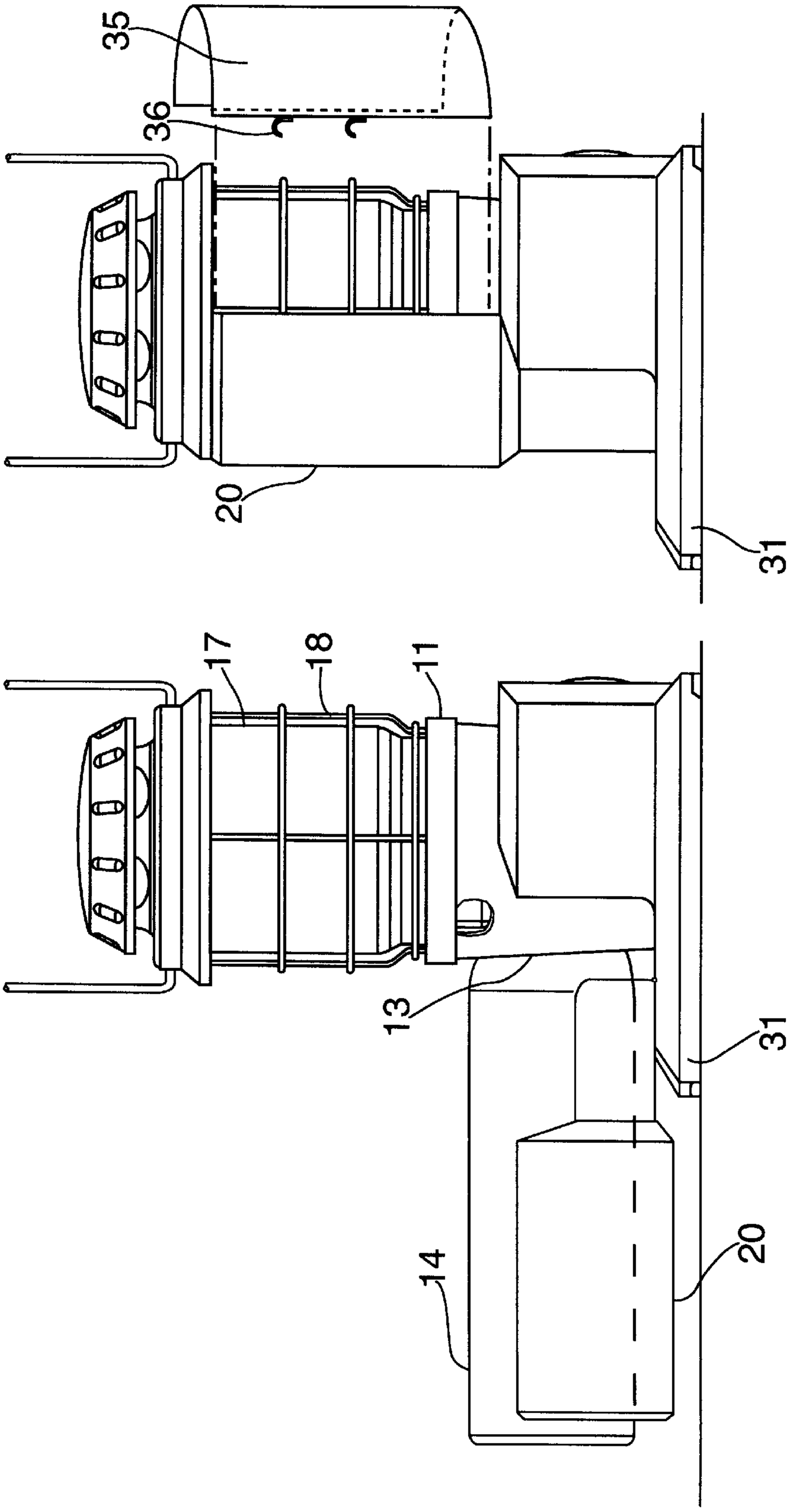


FIG. 2B

FIG. 2A

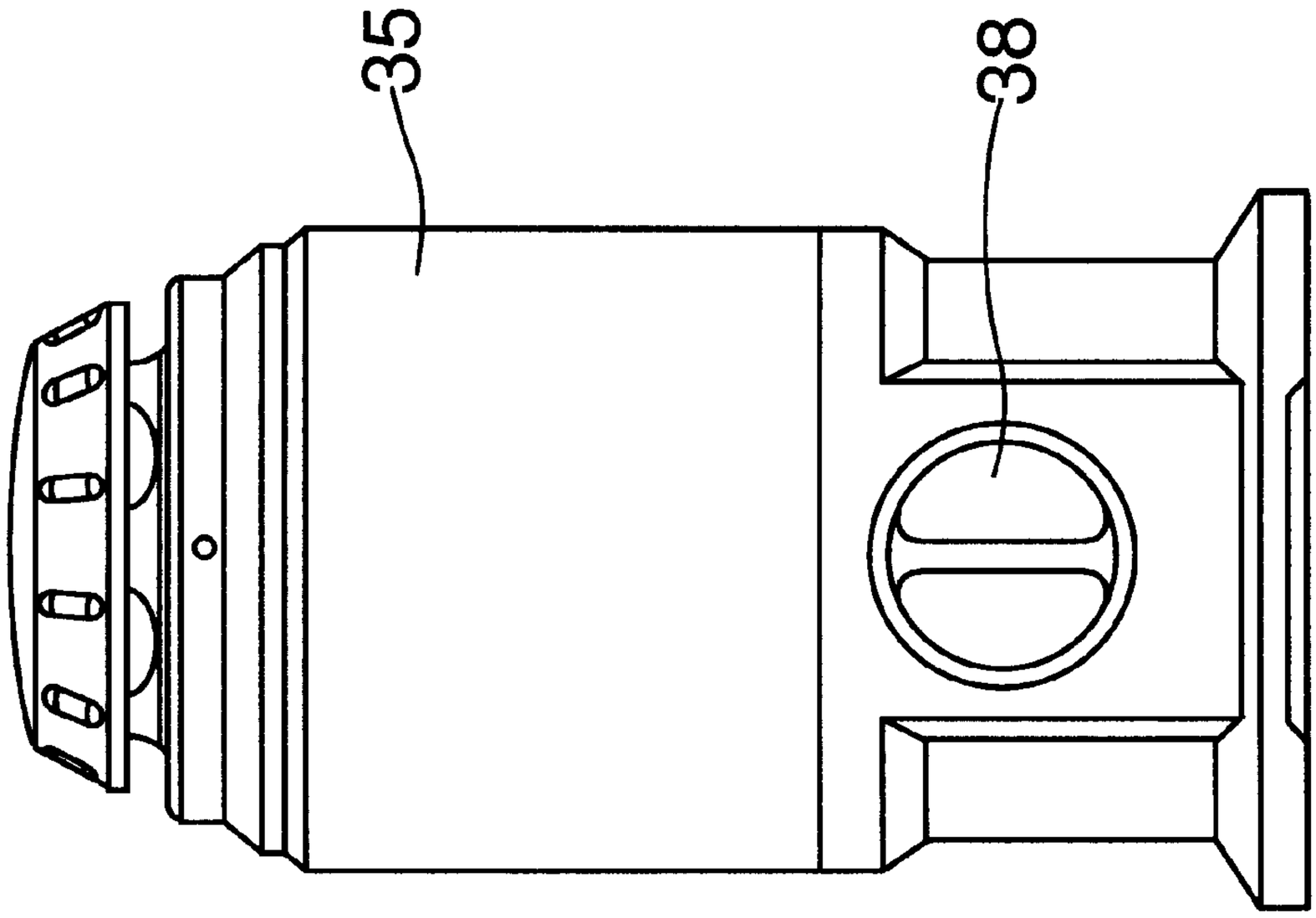


FIG. 2C

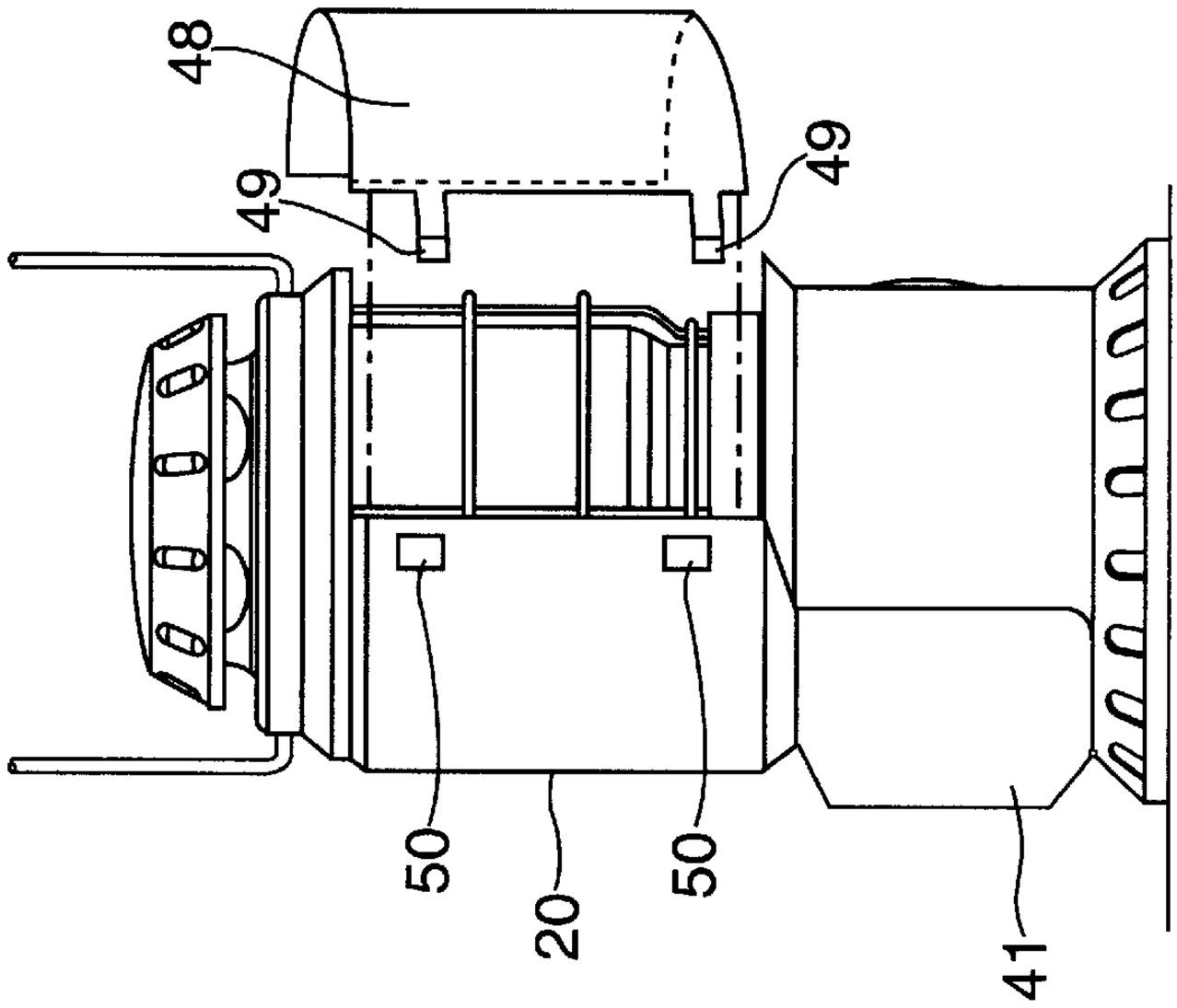


FIG. 3B

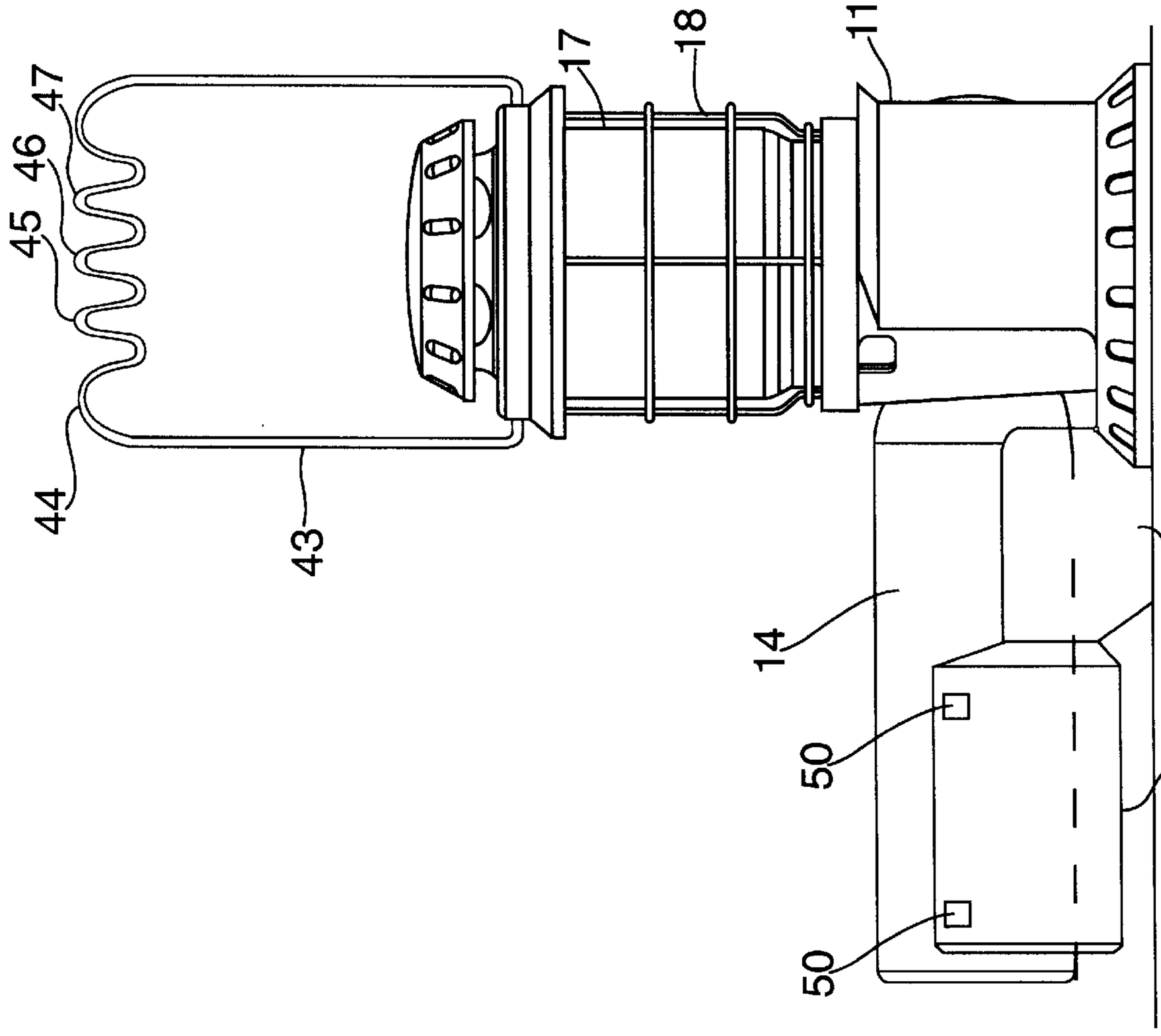


FIG. 3A

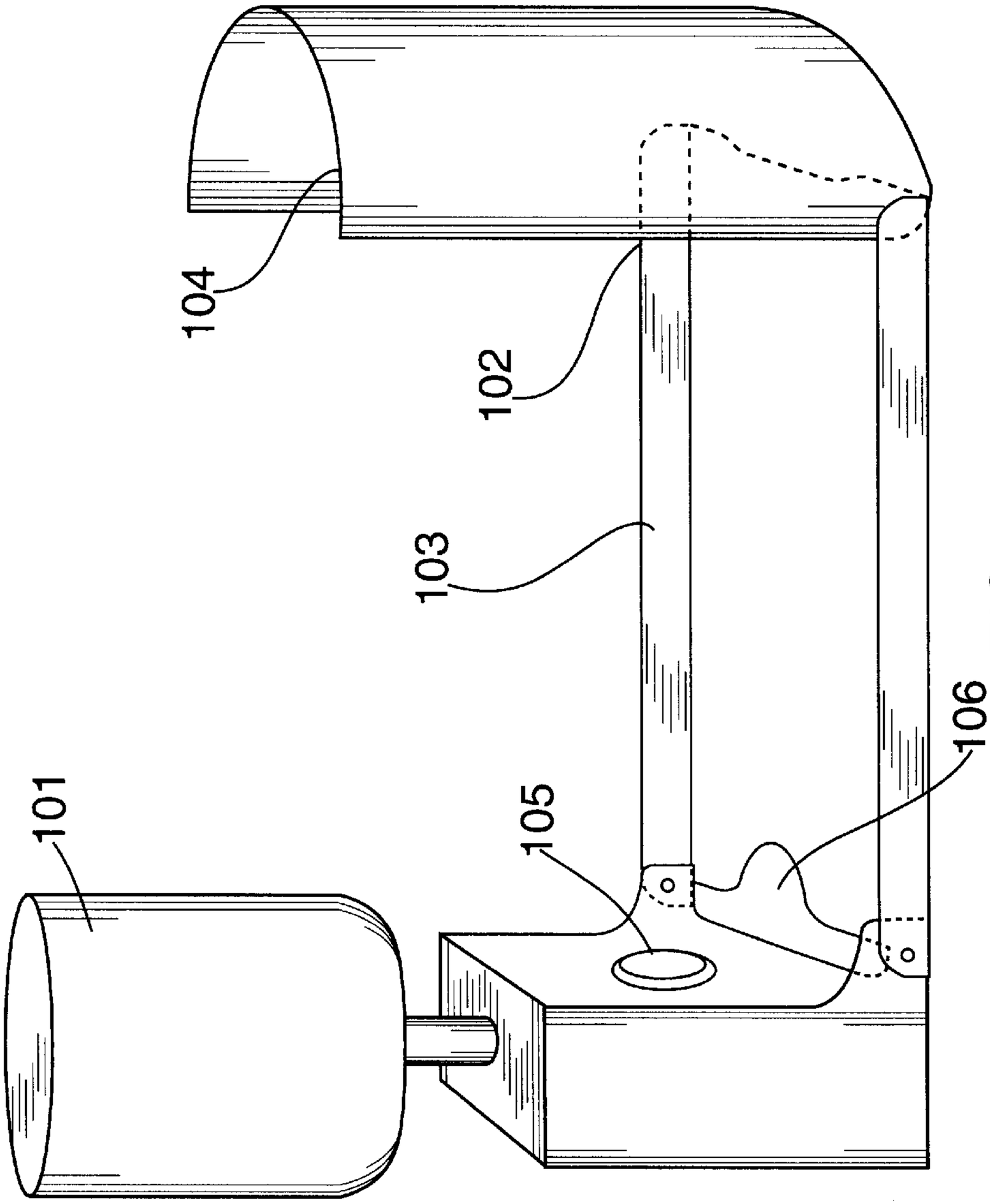


FIG. 4
PRIOR ART

LANTERN HAVING A PROTECTIVE SHIELD FEATURE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of camping lanterns. More specifically, it relates to lanterns having a housing with one or more shields that protect certain parts of the lantern when the lantern is stored.

2. Description of Related Art

Camping lanterns that use propane or butane or other gas fuels are well known and have been used for some time. Lanterns that use gas fuels typically have a vertical configuration, with a gas inlet at the bottom. Typically, this gas inlet mates directly with a gas outlet located at the top of a replaceable container, canister, or tank of gas. An engine routes the gas from this container to a gas outlet or burner where the gas is burned. A globe surrounds and protects the flame from wind, and increases the lighting efficiency and safety of the lantern.

One drawback of traditional gas lanterns is that they sometimes have a relatively high center of gravity, because the lantern is installed on top of the fuel container during ordinary use. This problem may be exacerbated when the fuel container is almost empty. As a result, a base, which may be weighted, is sometimes provided to increase the stability of the lantern. But because such a base is placed under the fuel container, the base is not incorporated into the lantern itself, and must be provided as a separate piece. This may inconvenience the user if the base accidentally becomes separated from the lantern during transit or storage. In addition, such a base adds weight and bulk to the lantern, which is particularly disadvantageous for some users, such as backpackers, who are very conscious of the weight and the size of the equipment that they carry.

Another disadvantage of traditional gas lanterns is that when they are not being used, their gas inlets are exposed to the environment. As a result, the gas inlet is accessible to dirt or other debris. In addition, the gas inlet is accessible to spiders, which can spin webs inside the gas inlet. When this occurs, the lantern may not operate properly.

Yet another disadvantage of traditional gas lanterns is that the globe that surrounds the burning fuel, which is usually made of glass, can be vulnerable to breakage from impact. While a removable lantern case can protect both the globe and the gas inlet, removable cases have a number of drawbacks. First, a removable case must be stored when the lantern is used, which can be a problem in certain circumstances such as in a tent where storage space is limited. Second, because the case must be removed before the lantern is used, the case can become separated from the lantern. When this occurs, the user may have to search for the case when it is time to place the lantern out of use or store the lantern. Finally, the case can be relatively heavy and bulky, which again is particularly disadvantageous for certain users.

Uniflame™ makes a number of compact lanterns with built-in cases. In one Uniflame™ lantern, the globe and burner extend upward and downward within a vertically oriented housing that protects the globe when the lantern is in a stored position. Another Uniflame™ model, the UL-C lantern, shown in FIG. **4**, protects the globe **101** with a built-in folding case **102** that includes a first section **103** and a second section **104**. However, the built-in case **103** does not protect the gas inlet **105** from spiders and other debris,

because the gas inlet **105** remains accessible via opening **106** even when the case **103** is closed. In addition, because the second section **104** folds over the top of the globe **101**, the case **102** extends above the top of the lantern when the case **102** is closed. This configuration makes it difficult to hang the model UL-C lantern from a permanently attached bail (i.e., handle).

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention advantageously provides a low profile lantern that includes a shield to protect the globe and the gas inlet when the lantern is not in use, can be easily hung from a bail, and does not require a separatable base for support.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a lantern is provided. The lantern includes a housing, a fuel inlet connected to the housing for receiving fuel from a fuel container, and a fuel outlet connected to the housing for discharging the fuel into a fuel-burning region. A shield is hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between (1) a closed position in which the shield blocks access to at least a portion of the fuel-burning region and covers the fuel inlet, and (2) an open position in which the shield does not block access to the fuel-burning region and the fuel inlet is uncovered.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, a lantern is provided. The lantern includes a housing, a fuel inlet connected to the housing for receiving fuel from a fuel container, and a fuel outlet connected to the housing for discharging the fuel into a fuel-burning region. A flame guard surrounds the fuel-burning region, and a ventilator is disposed above the fuel-burning region. A shield is hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between (1) a closed position in which the shield blocks access to at least a portion of the fuel-burning region and covers the fuel inlet, and (2) an open position in which the shield does not block access to the fuel-burning region and the fuel inlet is uncovered.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, a lantern is provided. The lantern includes a housing with a sidewall with an opening therein. A fuel inlet for receiving fuel from a fuel container is fitted in the opening of the sidewall, and a fuel outlet discharges the fuel into a fuel-burning region located above the top of the housing. The lantern also includes a valve or regulator for selectively passing or blocking the flow of fuel from the fuel inlet to the fuel outlet. The fuel-burning region is surrounded by a substantially cylindrical flame guard, and covered by a ventilator. A shield having a substantially cylindrical inner face is hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between (1) a closed position in which the shield covers the fuel inlet and the flame guard nests inside the inner face on the same side of the housing as the fuel inlet, and (2) an open position in which the shield does not cover the fuel inlet and, when the fuel container is connected to the fuel inlet, the fuel container nests inside the inner face.

The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following detailed description of illustrated embodiments, which includes a number of preferred embodiments. One preferred embodiment includes a two section shield, with the second section hingedly connected to the first section. Another preferred embodiment includes a two section shield, with the second section detachably affixable to the first section. Another preferred embodiment includes a two section shield, with the second section detachably affixable to the

flame guard. The detailed description is to be read in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1A** is a perspective view of a lantern in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the opened position and a fuel container installed.

FIG. **1B** is a perspective view of a lantern in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the closed position.

FIG. **1C** is a perspective view of a lantern in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the opened position but closed around the installed fuel container.

FIG. **1D** is a perspective view of a lantern in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the opened position.

FIG. **2A** is a side view of a lantern in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the open position and a fuel container installed.

FIG. **2B** is a side view of a lantern in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the closed position.

FIG. **2C** is a front view of a lantern in accordance with the second embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the closed position and the second shield installed.

FIG. **3A** is a side view of a lantern in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the open position and a fuel container installed.

FIG. **3B** is a side view of a lantern in accordance with the third embodiment of the present invention, with the shield in the closed position.

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of a prior art lantern.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

FIG. **1A** shows a lantern in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention, which is designed to operate using an external container of fuel. A housing **11** with a generally cylindrical sidewall **12** is included at the lower portion of the lantern. While this shape is preferred, numerous other shapes may also be used including, but not limited to, rectangular and hexagonal configurations.

The sidewall **12** (or, in the case of a polygonal housing, one of the sidewalls) has an opening **13** formed therein. The opening is fitted with an appropriate fuel inlet **(51)** for mating with and receiving fuel from an external fuel container **14**. The fuel inlet may be either recessed, flush, or extend beyond the sidewall **12**. The fuel inlet can be affixed to the sidewall **12** itself, or to another component that is located within the housing **11**. Any of a wide variety of fittings will be suitable for this purpose, as will be recognized by those skilled in the art.

Near the top edge of the sidewall **12**, a top face **15** is provided that is substantially horizontal when the lantern is supported on a horizontal surface. A fuel outlet **16** is fitted in this top face **15**. A valve **38** (shown in FIG. **1C**) is disposed in the pathway between the fuel inlet and the fuel outlet. When the valve **38** is opened, fuel flows out of the fuel container **14**, into the housing **11** via the fuel inlet, through the opened valve **38**, and out of the fuel outlet **16**. Preferably, the control knob of valve **38** and the fuel inlet are located on opposite sides of the housing **11**.

Preferably, a mantle (not shown) is secured to the fuel outlet **16**. When the fuel flowing out of the fuel outlet **16** burns, this mantle dramatically increases the amount of light produced by the lantern, in a conventional manner. The region where the fuel burns is called the fuel-burning region.

A flame guard **17, 18** which may comprise, for example, components such as a glass globe **17** and/or a wire cage **18**, is secured in place on top of the housing **11** so as to surround the fuel-burning region. Preferably, this flame guard **17, 18** is cylindrical and completely surrounds the fuel-burning region in a radial direction. However, non-cylindrical shapes as well as flame guards that have gaps (so that the entire flame is not enclosed) may also be used. Most preferably, the flame guard **17, 18** includes both a cylindrical glass globe **17** and a wire cage **18**, with the globe disposed inside the wire cage.

The flame guard **17, 18** may be secured directly to the top of the housing **11** in a variety of ways. For example, when a wire cage **18** is used, the bottom of the wire cage may be fastened directly to the top edge of the sidewall **12** or, alternatively, to the top face **15** of the housing **11**. The various portions of the flame guard **17, 18** may be either permanently or removably secured to the housing **11**.

As yet another alternative, the flame guard **17, 18** may be secured indirectly to the top of the housing **11**. For example, a post (not shown) or another component that extends up from the housing **11** may be used to hold the flame guard **17, 18** in place from the top of the flame guard. This configuration would be suitable for lanterns that use only a globe **17** as the flame guard, without a wire cage **18**. Preferably, the globe **17** is made of glass.

A ventilator **19** is disposed above the fuel-burning region, and secured to the top of the flame guard **17, 18**. The ventilator **19** may be secured directly to the flame guard **17, 18**. Alternatively, when a post or another component extends up from the housing **11**, the ventilator **19** may be indirectly secured to the flame guard **17, 18** by affixing the ventilator **19** to this component in a conventional manner. The ventilator **19** may be either permanently or removably secured to this component. For example, if a burner with a flat top (not shown) extends up from the housing **11**, the ventilator **19** can be fastened to the top of the burner using a suitable fastener such as a bolt and a mating nut (not shown).

This embodiment uses a two piece shield that includes a first section referred to as a first shield **20**, and a second section referred to as a second shield **25**.

The first shield **20** is provided on the same side of the housing as the fuel inlet **51**, with a hinged connection **21** that is preferably located near the bottom of the housing **11**. The hinged connection **21** can include, for example, a conventional hinge with a hinge pin such as a piano hinge, a pinless hinge such as a pair of rivets or screws located at either end of the door, a foldable piece of plastic, or any other suitable arrangement that enables the hinging action to take place. Preferably, the hinge **21** is located near the bottom of the housing **11** with the axis of the hinge parallel to the supporting surface of the lantern, and with the hinge **21** and first shield **20** oriented so that the first shield **20** can be moved between an open position and a closed position, similar to the operation of a drawbridge.

As seen in FIG. **1B**, when the first shield **20** is in the closed position, the first shield **20** covers the fuel inlet **51** to protect it from foreign matter and objects. In particular, by covering the fuel inlet, the first shield **20** reduces the chance that the fuel inlet **51** will become contaminated by dirt. The first shield **20** also reduces the chance that a spider will access the fuel inlet and build a web inside, which could interfere with the proper operation of the lantern.

Covering the fuel inlet **51** can be accomplished, for example, by using mating components that are machined to provide a tight fit between the first shield **20** and the fuel inlet **51** when first shield is in the closed position. Alternatively, a seal between the first shield **20** and the fuel inlet can be obtained using a gasket made of a compressible material such as cork, rubber, or plastic, to seal the fuel inlet when the first shield **20** is closed. As yet another alternative, a sheet of an elastic material such as rubber, plastic, or fabric may be stretched over the fuel inlet when the first shield **20** is moved into the closed position.

With reference to FIGS. **1**A and **1**B, when the first shield **20** is in its closed position, the upper portion **22** of the first shield **20** extends up and covers a portion of the flame guard **17**, **18**. Optionally, the upper portion **22** of the first shield **20** may contain one or more vents, and may be wider than the lower portion of the shield **20**. Preferably, the inner face **23** of this upper portion **22** of the first shield **20** is shaped to match the outer face of the flame guard **17**, **18**, so that the flame guard **17**, **18** will nest inside the inner face **23**. For example, when a cylindrical flame guard **17**, **18** is used, the preferred inner face **23** would be cylindrical, with an inner diameter that is slightly larger than the outer diameter of the flame guard **17**, **18**. The arc of the cylindrical inner face **23** of the first shield **20** is preferably about 180°, so that the first shield **20** provides coverage for about half of the flame guard **17**, **18**. Smaller arcs may be used as well, but would provide correspondingly less coverage.

While it is preferable for the shape of the inner face **23** to match the outer face of the flame guard **17**, **18**, this is not required. For example, a first shield with a rectangular inner face may be used to protect a cylindrical or an oval-shaped flame guard **17**, **18**.

The first shield **20** may be opened by swinging the top of the first shield **20** down until it is about 90° from its closed position. The first shield **20** can be stopped in this position by a variety of mechanisms, including, for example, by using a stop connected to the housing **11** or by using the surface that supports the lantern as a stop.

In the open position the fuel inlet is accessible so that a container of fuel **14** can be connected to the fuel in let. In a preferred embodiment, the first shield **20** has a substantially cylindrical inner face **23** that is dimensioned to nest outside of the flame guard **17**, **18**. In the open position, the substantially cylindrical inner face **23** of the first shield **20** resembles a substantially horizontal open channel **24** or trough. Preferably, the inner diameter of the inner face **23** of this channel **24** is greater than the outer diameter of the container of fuel **14**, so that the container of fuel **14** can nest inside the channel **24**. In this position, the first shield **20** protects the container of fuel **14**. The channel **24** can be positioned with respect to the fuel inlet so that the container **14** rests on and is supported by the inner face **23** of the channel **24** when the container **14** is installed. Alternatively, if the container **14** is supported by the fuel inlet, the channel **24** can be positioned so that the container **14** is suspended above the inner face **23** of the channel **24**.

When the first shield **20** i s in the closed position, the first shield **20** only protects a portion of the flame guard **17**, **18**. For example, when the first shield **20** covers a 180° section of the flame guard **17**, **18**, the remaining 180° section of the flame guard **17**, **18** remains uncovered.

In this embodiment, the remaining section of the flame guard **17**, **18** is protected by a second shield **25** that is hingedly connected to the first shield **20** by hinge **26**. The second shield **25** has a substantially cylindrical inner face **27**. The axis of the hinged connection **26** between the first shield **20** and the second shield **25** is substantially perpendicular to the axis of the hinged connection **21** between the first shield **20** and the housing **11**. As a result, when the first shield **20** is closed, the axis of the hinged connection **26** between the first shield **20** and the second shield **25** will be substantially vertical. The second shield **25** can then be swung open and shut like a door to alternately cover and reveal the portions of the flame guard **17**, **18** that are not blocked by the first shield **20**. When the second shield **25** is closed, tab **28**A mates with hole **28**B to hold the second shield in place. While the fastener shown comprises a tab **28**A and a corresponding mating hole **28**B, a wide variety of alternative fasteners maybe used as well.

Preferably, the first shield **20** will cover about half of the flame guard **17**, **18**, and the second shield **25** covers the entire region that is not covered by the first shield **20**. For example, when the first shield **20** covers a 180° section of the flame guard **17**, **18**, the second shield **25** covers the remaining 180° section. In another example, if the first shield **20** covers a 120° section of the flame guard **17**, **18**, the second shield **25** covers the remaining 240° section. In this case, the second shield **25** can be made using two 120° sections with a hinge connecting the two sections (not shown), to allow it to encircle the flame guard **17**, **18**.

Turning now to FIG. **1**C, when the first shield **20** is in the open position, the second shield **25** can be closed around the fuel container to protect the top of the fuel container and reduce the footprint of the lantern.

A variety of alternative approaches may be used to protect the portion of the flame guard **17**, **18** that is not protected by the first shield **20**. For example, FIGS. **2**A, **2**B, and **2**C show a second embodiment that includes a second shield **35**. This second shield **35** attaches to and detaches from the flame guard **17**, **18**. Most of the elements in this embodiment are the same as those in the first embodiment described above.

When the flame guard **17**, **18** includes a wire cage **18**, this second shield **35** can be attached to the wire cage **18** using, for example, clips **36** (shown in FIG. **2**B) or snaps (not shown). As with the first embodiment, the second shield **35** preferably covers the entire region that is not covered by the first shield, and can be made of multiple sections connected by hinges.

When a glass globe **17** is used alone as the flame guard, the second shield **35** may alternatively be attached to the housing beneath the globe or the ventilator located above the globe. Alternatively, when globe **17** is cylindrical, a cylindrical piece of spring steel (not shown) that covers more than 180° of the globe **17** may be snapped directly onto the globe **17**.

If the inside of the second shield **35** is a reflecting heat-resistant surface such as polished steel, then the second shield **35** can serve as a reflector if it is left in position on the flame guard **17**, **18** when the lantern is in use. Alternatively, if the reflector is not desired, the second shield **35** can be fastened to the first shield **20** for storage while the lantern is in use, as with the previous embodiment.

As seen in FIGS. **2**A and **2**B, an elongated base **31** may be provided at the bottom of the housing **11** to provide extra stability to the lantern. This can compensate for the shift in the center of gravity caused by the fuel container being installed into the side of the lantern.

FIGS. **3**A and **3**B shows a third embodiment that protects the remaining section of the flame guard **17**, **18**. Most of the elements in this embodiment are also the same as in the first embodiment described above. However, in place of the

hinged second shield **25** of the first embodiment, this embodiment uses a detachable second shield **48** that mates with the hinged first shield **20** described above. The second shield **48** can connect to the first shield **20** by, for example, spring loaded leafs **49** that mate with corresponding notches **50**. Preferably, a corresponding set of leafs and notches are also provided at the rear (not shown). Alternative mechanisms can be readily envisioned by those skilled in the art, including but not limited to, reversing the positions of the leafs and the notches, or using snaps, latches, magnets, tongues and grooves, or the like. As with the first embodiment, the second shield **48** preferably covers the entire region that is not covered by the first shield, and can be made of multiple sections connected by hinges.

When the second shield **48** is removed, it can be nested on either the inside or the outside of the first shield **20** while the lantern is in use. In this configuration, the second shield **48** may be fastened for storage to the first shield **20** using an appropriate fastener (not shown) including, but not limited to, clips and snaps.

The outer face of the first shield **20** in this embodiment includes a protrusion **41** that serves as a foot to stabilize the lantern when the first shield **20** is opened. Of course, this protrusion **41** could be used in any of the embodiments described above, or the bases of those embodiments could be used in this embodiment.

With reference to FIG. **3**A, a crenulated wire bail **43** (or handle) is used to compensate for the shift in the lantern's center of gravity when the lantern is hung from a hook or wire. The bail **43** is oriented so that the crenulations **44–47** run in the direction of the length of the fuel container **14**. This allows the user to compensate for shifts in the center of gravity by hanging the lantern from a crenulation **44–47**, **45** located between the center of the bail **43** and the fuel container. The lanterns in accordance with the present invention can be used with fuel containers of different sizes and weight. The user will select an appropriate crenulation **44–47** to hang the lantern from, depending on the size and weight of the fuel container. This selection can be adjusted by the user as the weight of the container decreases when the fuel is consumed. Of course, while the crenulated bail **43** is only shown in this embodiment, it may be incorporated into any of the embodiments described above as well.

While the present invention has been described above with reference to the specific embodiments, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited to those precise embodiments. Changes and modifications can be effected without departing from the scope or spirit of the present invention.

We claim:

1. A lantern comprising:

a housing;

a fuel inlet connected to the housing for receiving fuel from a fuel container;

a fuel outlet connected to the housing for discharging the fuel into a fuel-burning region; and

a shield hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between a closed position in which the shield blocks access to at least a portion of the fuel-burning region and covers the fuel inlet, and an open position in which the shield does not block access to the fuel-burning region and the fuel inlet is uncovered.

2. The lantern according to claim **1**, further comprising a flame guard surrounding the fuel-burning region.

3. The lantern according to claim **2**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield that is removably affixable to the flame guard so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the flame guard, the second shield blocks access to portions of the of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

4. The lantern according to claim **3**, wherein an inside of the second shield comprises a light reflector.

5. The lantern according to claim **2**, wherein the flame guard comprises at least one of wire and glass components.

6. The lantern according to claim **1**, further comprising a ventilator disposed above the fuel-burning region.

7. The lantern according to claim **6**, further comprising a crenulated bail affixed to the ventilator, with the crenulations running in a direction of a length of the fuel container when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

8. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein, in the open position, the shield supports the fuel container.

9. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield hingedly connected to the first shield, with the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the second shield being substantially perpendicular to the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the housing, so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is in a closed position, the second shield blocks access to portions of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

10. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield that is removably affixable to the first shield so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the first shield, the second shield blocks access to portions of the of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

11. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein the housing includes an elongated base to support the lantern when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

12. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein the shield includes a foot to support the lantern when the shield is in the open position and the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

13. The lantern according to claim **1**, further comprising a control knob of a valve, wherein the control knob and the fuel inlet are located on opposite sides of the housing.

14. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield presses against the fuel inlet.

15. The lantern according to claim **1**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield closely abuts the fuel inlet.

16. A lantern comprising:

a housing;

a fuel inlet connected to the housing for receiving fuel from a fuel container;

a fuel outlet connected to the housing for discharging the fuel into a fuel-burning region;

a flame guard surrounding the fuel-burning region;

a ventilator disposed above the fuel-burning region and the flame guard; and

a shield hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between a closed position in which the shield blocks access to at least a portion of the fuel-burning region and covers the fuel inlet, and an open position in which the shield does not block access to the fuel-burning region and the fuel inlet is uncovered.

17. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein, in the open position, the shield supports the fuel container.

18. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield hingedly connected to the first shield, with the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the second shield being substantially perpendicular to the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the housing, so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is in a closed position, the second shield blocks access to portions of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

19. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield that is removably affixable to the first shield so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the first shield, the second shield blocks access to portions of the of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

20. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield that is removably affixable to the flame guard so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the flame guard, the second shield blocks access to portions of the of the fuel-burning region that are not blocked by the first shield.

21. The lantern according to claim **20**, wherein an inside of the second shield comprises a light reflector.

22. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the flame guard comprises at least one of wire and glass components.

23. The lantern according to claim **16**, further comprising a crenulated bail affixed to the ventilator, with the crenulations running in a direction of a length of the fuel container when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

24. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the housing includes an elongated base to support the lantern when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

25. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein the shield includes a foot to support the lantern when the shield is in the open position and the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

26. The lantern according to claim **16**, further comprising a control knob of a valve, wherein the control knob and the fuel inlet are located on opposite sides of the housing.

27. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield presses against the fuel inlet.

28. The lantern according to claim **16**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield closely abuts the fuel inlet.

29. A lantern comprising:

a housing having a sidewall, and a top, the sidewall having an opening therein;

a fuel inlet fitted in the opening of the sidewall for receiving fuel from a fuel container;

a fuel outlet connected to the housing for discharging the fuel into a fuel-burning region located above the top of the housing;

a valve for selectively passing and blocking the flow of fuel from the fuel inlet to the fuel outlet;

a substantially cylindrical flame guard radially surrounding the fuel-burning region;

a ventilator disposed above the fuel-burning region; and

a shield having a substantially cylindrical inner face hingedly connected to the housing to allow movement between a closed position in which the shield covers the fuel inlet and the flame guard nests inside the inner face on the same side of the housing as the fuel inlet, and an open position in which the shield does not cover the fuel inlet and, when the fuel container is connected to the fuel inlet, the fuel container nests inside the inner face.

30. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein, in the open position, the shield supports the fuel container.

31. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield having a substantially cylindrical inner face, the second shield hingedly connected to the first shield, with the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the second shield being substantially perpendicular to the axis of the hinged connection between the first shield and the housing, so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is in a closed position, the second shield blocks access to substantially all portions of the flame guard that are not blocked by the first shield.

32. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield having a substantially cylindrical inner face, the second shield being removably affixable to the first shield so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the first shield, the second shield blocks access to substantially all portions of the of the flame guard that are not blocked by the first shield.

33. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the shield comprises a first shield hingedly connected to the housing and a second shield having a substantially cylindrical inner face, the second shield being removably affixable to the flame guard so that when the first shield is in the closed position and the second shield is affixed to the flame guard, the second shield blocks access to substantially all portions of the flame guard that are not blocked by the first shield.

34. The lantern according to claim **33**, wherein an inside of the second shield comprises a light reflector.

35. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the flame guard comprises at least one of wire and glass components.

36. The lantern according to claim **29**, further comprising a crenulated bail affixed to the ventilator, with the crenulations running in a direction of a length of the fuel container when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

37. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the housing includes an elongated base to support the lantern when the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

38. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein the shield includes a foot to support the lantern when the shield is in the open position and the fuel container is attached to the fuel inlet.

39. The lantern according to claim **29**, further comprising a control knob of the valve, wherein the control knob and the fuel inlet are located on opposite sides of the housing.

40. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield presses against the fuel inlet.

41. The lantern according to claim **29**, wherein, when the shield is in the closed position, the shield closely abuts the fuel inlet.

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